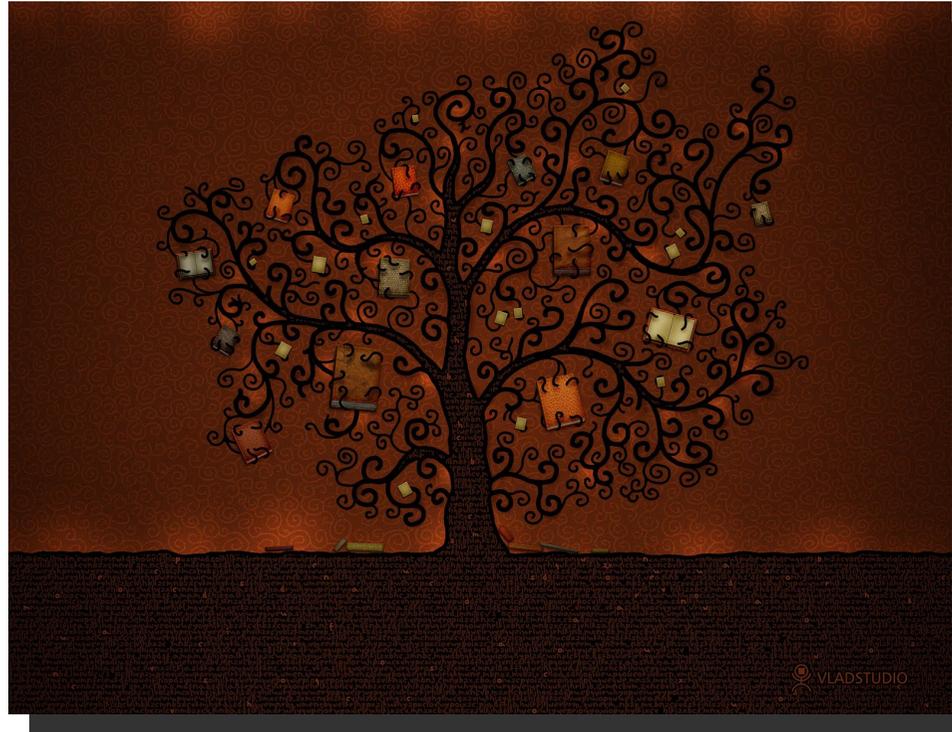


The role of ecological literacy in the shift to a more sustainable future



Sarah Marchildon, Associate Programme Officer, UNFCCC
Workshop on the implementation of Article 6
of the Convention in least developed countries
Bonn, Germany, June 19, 2012



Presentation overview

Presentation focus:

- The role of ecoliteracy in the shift to a more sustainable future

Presentation objective:

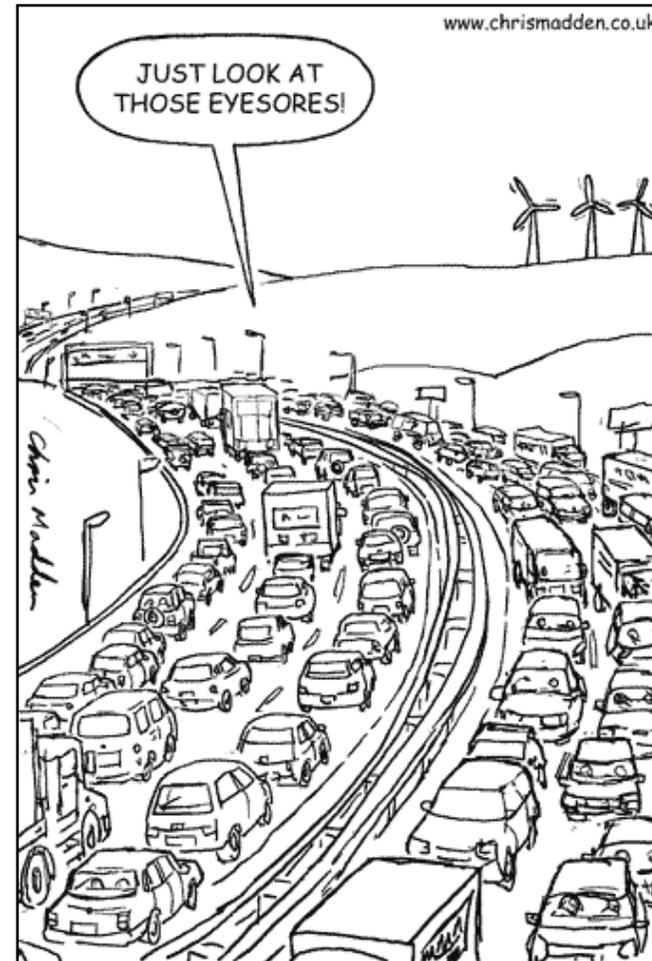
- To explain what ecoliteracy is, why it's important and how it works

Presentation message:

- Ecoliteracy must become a critical skill for politicians, business leaders and professionals, and should be the most important part of education at all levels

Why is ecoliteracy important?

- Alienation from nature is contributing to environmental problems
- We now are at a critical point with many issues, such as climate change, biodiversity, deforestation
- Ecoliteracy is imperative for political and business leaders, as well as in all levels of the education system



Thinking
differently



The development of ecological understanding is not simply another subject to be learnt but a fundamental change in the way we see the world.

John Lyle, 1994

How is ecological understanding
created?





Getting ecoliteracy into the curriculum

Key question:

- What should students know, do and value?

Key challenge:

- Ecoliteracy is difficult to teach – many teachers do not have this level of expertise

Key lessons:

- Simple themes of ecology can be woven into a general curriculum

Transformative education

Shifts in three related areas:

(1) Perception (seeing)

(2) Conception (knowing)

(3) Action (doing)



Conclusion

Important points:

- We need to recognize that the earth is an intricate system of relationships that we are part of, and to live accordingly
- Cultivating an ecoliterate worldview can help put us on a more sustainable path

Suggestions for the future:

- Ecoliteracy as the most important part of education at all levels

Thank you!



Mother and infant orangutans, nationalgeographic.com, Jami Tarris, 2011

Resources

Center for Ecoliteracy

www.ecoliteracy.org

GRASP: a tool for developing ecological literacy through rich performance tasks

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/programs/ecoschools/docs/GRASP%20FINAL.pdf>

Schumacher College

<http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/>

Ecoliteracy resources for teachers

<http://www.agnt.org/earth/ecoliteracyexamples.htm>

Eco-Schools

www.eco-schools.org

The Oberlin Project

<http://oberlinproject.org/>

Ecological Literacy: Educating our Children for a Sustainable World

<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/books/ecological-literacy-educating-our-children-sustainable-world>

Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability

<http://www.amazon.com/Smart-Nature-Sustainability-Michael-Stone/dp/0970950047>

